

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



Calgary

January 30, 2017

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

News story #1 Calgary farmers' market destroyed in fire (0:14)

Setting the Scene



Firefighters on the scene at Symons Valley Ranch (Monty Kruger/CBC) (CBC file photo)

Farmers' markets are popular places to go shopping. People sell all kinds of food: fruits and vegetables, meat, baked goods, and prepared food such as soups and sandwiches. People also sell crafts and other homemade goods. Symons Valley Ranch is a farmers' market in the northwest of Calgary. A fire destroyed most of the market last week. The main building is mostly made of wood, which can burn quickly. Luckily, it seems that nobody was hurt in the fire. Fire officials do not yet know what caused the fire.

Pre-listening Questions

Where do you usually buy groceries? How often?

Is food shopping different in Canada and in your home country? Explain how.

Farmers often sell their food at markets. Where else can they sell their food?

Vocabulary

Find the definition (Multiple Choice)

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Read the sentences below and choose the best definition for the words in **bold**.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. The flood **destroyed** many buildings in the area. People had to rebuild their homes.
 - a. ruined
 - b. made angry
2. At City Hall, we often see TV news **crews** of reporters, camerapeople and editors.
 - a. companies who make newspapers
 - b. groups of people working together
3. After the rain, we noticed the garage roof was **leaking**. There was rain water on the car.
 - a. water was coming from the sky
 - b. water was coming through a hole
4. Many farmers at the market sell snacks, so they have a **supply** of napkins for people to use.
 - a. available amount
 - b. available workers
5. The house is **downwind** from a dry cleaner, so they can smell chemical odours.
 - a. in the direction the wind is blowing
 - b. different from the pattern of wind
6. In 2016, thousands of people from Fort McMurray left the city because of a **blaze**.
 - a. flood
 - b. fire
7. We thought the thief escaped, but the chief of police **confirmed** that he was arrested.
 - a. limited communication
 - b. established the truth
8. At the market, there are many **vendors** that sell crafts as well as food.
 - a. sellers
 - b. repair people
9. The company doesn't know who stole the file, but they are running an **investigation**.
 - a. search for the truth
 - b. question and answer

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

natural gas – gas that exists naturally underground, and is used as fuel

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: <https://quizlet.com/31s4iw>

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Matching

Read the people and things below. As you listen to the audio, complete the sentences by matching the person or thing with the correct information that follows. *Answers are in the appendix.*

People/Thing		Information
the fire	•	• was leaking
fire crews	•	• were asked to leave their homes
natural gas	•	• confirmed that no vendors were inside
the gas company	•	• were called at 6am
40 people	•	• is under investigation
nobody	•	• started early Monday morning
market owners	•	• shut off the gas supply
the cause	•	• was injured

Food for Thought

What are some things that can cause a fire?

How do people usually prevent fires in their homes? What about schools and workplaces?

Do you know what to do if there is a fire in your home? What are some tips for staying safe?

News story #2 Wildrose leader wants a united Conservative Party (1:11)

Setting the Scene



Wildrose Leader Brian Jean (Jason Franson/The Canadian Press) (CBC file photo)

Canada has several major political parties. They exist at the federal, provincial, and sometimes municipal level. Sometimes, two parties with similar points of view will join together to become one new party. This can help parties attract more support and more voters. The Wildrose Party is a provincial party in Alberta. It is considered a right-wing party, with conservative policies, values and goals. Currently, there are two right-wing parties in Alberta: the Progressive Conservative Party and the Wildrose Party. There is talk about joining these parties together into one right-wing party. This may give the right-wing politicians of Alberta a better chance of winning the next election.

Pre-listening Questions

Do you follow provincial politics? Do you follow Calgary politics or national politics?

What do you know about the Wildrose Party? What are some of their beliefs?

Are Canada's political parties similar to the parties in your home country?

Vocabulary

Synonym Matching

To help you better understand the story, choose the pair of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
_____	willing (adj.)	1. possibility, luck
_____	step down (v.)	2. wanting, looking for
_____	chance (n.)	3. compete, take part
_____	approved (v.)	4. ready, wanting
_____	run (v.)	5. refused, said no to
_____	rejected (v.)	6. guarantee, vow
_____	seeking (v.)	7. withdraw, resign
_____	promise (n.)	8. agreed, accepted

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

Wildrose Party – Alberta’s conservative political party

Progressive Conservative Party (PCs) – Alberta’s progressive conservative political party

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_31s57t

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity

Multiple Choice

Read the following questions. Then, listen to the audio and choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Jean is willing to step down as leader and then _____ the leader of a new party.	a) try to support b) try to become
He says that would give _____ the best chance to win the next election.	a) conservatives in the province b) considerations in the province
He says the move would have to be approved by _____.	a) ministers of that party b) members of that party
He says he could run for leader of the united party _____.	a) this September b) this summer
In _____, he rejected talk of joining with the PCs.	a) October 2016 b) early 2016
The Alberta PC party members are in the process of _____.	a) choosing a new logo b) choosing a new leader
Former _____ Jason Kenney is seeking leadership of that party.	a) federal MP b) finance MP
He is running on a promise to “_____”	a) bring youth to the right b) unite the right

Food for thought

What are some characteristics of a good politician?

How do you decide which political party to support?

Do you think a united party would get more supporters? Do you think there are any drawbacks?

Setting the Scene



Pipes for TransCanada's planned Keystone XL pipeline (Alex Panette/The Canadian Press) (CBC file photos)

Canada is a country that is rich in natural resources. One of these resources is the oil in Alberta's oilsands. A large portion of this oil is exported and sold to overseas buyers, including the United States. TransCanada proposed a pipeline that would transport oil directly from Alberta to the United States. That pipeline project was called Keystone XL. In 2015, the US rejected the Keystone XL plan. However, the United States has a new president: Donald Trump. Many people believe that trade deals between Canada and the United States will change because of this new president.

Pre-listening Questions

Have you heard of the Keystone XL project? Have you heard of other pipeline projects?

Why do some people support Keystone XL? Why do some people oppose it?

What other Canadian goods do you think are exported to the US?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

turned down (v.)	rejected or refused
reapply (v.)	give a formal request again
approval (n.)	official acceptance of a plan or decision
conditions (n.)	things that must exist or happen before an agreement is made
renegotiation (n.)	another discussion for the purpose of making an agreement
steel (n.)	a metal made of iron and carbon

1. John has been in that job for three years. In the meeting, he will ask for a _____ of his salary. He thinks he should get a raise.
2. Some high school students don't get accepted to the university of their choice. They can take more classes, raise their marks, and _____ to that university the next year.
3. The construction company was worried that their plan would be _____ by the city. They were so happy when they got a letter of _____ from the mayor's office.
4. _____ is a very important construction material. It is used for buildings, railways, machines and all kinds of development.
5. When you rent a car, there are several _____. For example, you must fill up the gas tank before returning the car to the rental company.

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

given new life – restore something; make it useful or popular again

pipeline – connected pipes in a line used to move a liquid

memorandum – a note that is made for future use

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: [https://quizlet.com/ 31s5v7](https://quizlet.com/31s5v7)

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Listening Activity

Answering True/False questions

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. ____ The pipeline would take oil from Alberta to Nebraska.
2. ____ The pipeline plan had been supported by Barack Obama.
3. ____ Trump signed a memorandum on Thursday.
4. ____ This means that TransCanada can reapply for pipeline approval.
5. ____ Trump says that any approval would come with conditions and new negotiations.
6. ____ He would demand that the pipeline be built by American workers.
7. ____ It is not clear what those conditions mean for Canada or the project.
8. ____ This decision is supported by Justin Trudeau, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau and Rachel Notley.

Food for thought

How will Alberta's economy change if Keystone XL is built?

What are some pros and cons of the Keystone XL project?

Do you think the relationship between Canada and the US will change now that Trump is in power?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	JANUARY WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Shannon Scott and this is Learning English with CBC for January 30 th with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	A popular farmers market in Calgary's northwest has been destroyed by fire. The fire at Symons Valley Ranch started early Monday morning. Fire crews were called to the Ranch around 6am. They found it difficult to fight the fire because of leaking natural gas. The gas company had to shut off the supply. 40 people living downwind of the fire were asked to leave their homes until the air quality improved. It doesn't appear anyone was injured during the blaze, and owners of the market confirmed no vendors were inside when the fire started. The cause of the fire is under investigation.	0:14
Story 2	The leader of Alberta's Wildrose party has said he is willing to step down as leader and then try to become the leader of a new united Conservative Party. Brian Jean says uniting the Wildrose Party with the Alberta Progressive Conservative Party would give Conservatives in the province the best chance to win the next election. Jean says the move would have to be approved by members of the Wildrose, and if that happened, he could run for leader of the united party this summer. This is a change for Jean. In October 2016, he rejected talk of joining with the PCs. The Alberta PC party members are in the process of choosing a new leader. Former federal MP Jason Kenney is seeking the leadership of that party. He is running on a promise to try to "unite the right".	1:11
Story 3	US President Donald Trump has given new life to TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline. The pipeline, which would take oil from Alberta to Nebraska, had been turned down by former president Barack Obama. Trump signed a presidential memorandum on Tuesday, which means TransCanada can reapply for pipeline approval in the United States. But Trump says any approval would come with conditions and a renegotiation, including a demand that the pipeline be built with American steel. It's not clear what that could mean for Canada or the project. The decision by Trump was supported by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi and Premier Rachel Notley.	2:23

Answer keys

News story 1 Calgary farmers' market destroyed in fire (0:14)

Vocabulary

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b. made angry
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a. companies who make newspapers
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a. sellers
b. repair people
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a. search for the truth
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Listening

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natural gas		confirmed that no vendors were inside
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News story 2 Wildrose leader wants a united Conservative Party (1:11)

Vocabulary

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Listening

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In _____, he rejected talk of joining with the PCs.	a) October 2016 b) early 2016
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Former _____ Jason Kenney is seeking leadership of that party.	a) federal MP b) finance MP
He is running on a promise to “ _____ ”	a) bring youth to the right b) unite the right

News story 3 Trump to consider Keystone XL pipeline project (2:23)

Vocabulary

1. John has been in that job for three years. In the meeting, he will ask for a renegotiation of his salary. He thinks he should get a raise.
2. Some high school students don't get accepted to the university of their choice. They can take more classes, raise their marks and reapply to that university the next year.

3. The construction company was worried that their plan would be turned down by the city. They were so happy when they got a letter of approval from the mayor's office.
4. Steel is a very important construction material. It is used for buildings, railways, machines and all kinds of development.
5. When you rent a car, there are several conditions. For example, you must fill up the gas tank before returning the car to the rental company.

Listening

1. T The pipeline would take oil from Alberta to Nebraska.
2. F The pipeline plan had been supported by Barack Obama.
3. F Trump signed a memorandum on Thursday.
4. T This means that TransCanada can reapply for pipeline approval.
5. T Trump says that any approval would come with conditions and new negotiations.
6. F He would demand that the pipeline be built by American workers.
7. T It is not clear what those conditions mean for Canada or the project.
8. F This decision is supported by Justin Trudeau, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau and Rachel Notley.